

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my constituents and the millions of Americans who contacted their Representatives last week and voiced their opposition to the Republican bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Although TrumpCare failed, the debate on health care is far from over. I hope that Speaker RYAN will reach across the aisle so we can improve a law that works and is more popular than ever.

Thanks to the ACA, over 20 million more Americans are insured. People with preexisting conditions can no longer be denied. Consumers are protected from the worst abuses of the insurance industry. There are parts of the law that can be improved, and that is what we should be working on.

The Republican bill never tried; not one public hearing was held on that bill. Their complete lack of transparency in the Republican leadership tried to ram it through without public comment. We worked on the ACA for more than a year before there was a final vote.

TrumpCare was voted on in only 18 days after it was introduced—18 days—a bill that would cut 24 million Americans from health care. As ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee, I hope to work with my colleagues on a bipartisan solution to improve the ACA.

CONGRATULATING HERMITAGE FFA FORESTRY TEAM

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the outstanding achievements of four young men in my district. The Hermitage, Arkansas, FFA Forestry team not only placed first in Arkansas but also won the 37th annual National 4-H Forestry Invitational and the National FFA Forestry Career Development Event.

The Hermitage FFA Forestry team was comprised of: Ethan Boykin, Hunter Saunders, Cade Wilkerson, and Connor Wilkerson, all of Hermitage, Arkansas. During the Forestry Invitational, teams competed for overall team and individual awards in events such as tree identification, insect and disease identification, forest evaluation, and a written forestry exam. The National FFA Forestry CDE tests students' skills and knowledge in forest management.

As a forester serving in the House of Representatives, I recognize the many hours that these young men dedicated to competing on a national level, and I admire them for their hard work.

Additionally, special recognition is due to Mr. Taylor Gwin, who coached the Arkansas Forestry team, the parents of the team members, and the Bradley County Extension Services.

They all played a crucial role in making this victory possible.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture and forestry are the main economic engines in Arkansas, and there is little doubt, in my mind, that one day soon, talented and passionate young people, such as these, will be called upon to lead our State into the future.

Once again, I offer them my most sincere congratulations and wish them the best as they continue to pursue their passion for forestry.

DON'T SHELVE FUEL EFFICIENCY RULES

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, in 2009, when gas prices were very high and our dependence on foreign oil was at its peak, the Environmental Protection Agency set standards to increase fuel efficiency of trucks and cars. This helped achieve three main goals: It lessened the burden on consumers faced with high gas prices, addressed the urgent national security priority relating to our addiction to Middle East oil, and sought to limit the admittance of harmful fumes into our atmosphere.

At the same time, we made unprecedented commitment to our auto industry, and in their most uncertain and darkest moment, facing collapse and bankruptcy, America bailed them out. We did this, and it came with political consequences, but we believe in their centrality to the future of the American economy, and we still do.

That is why it is so disappointing to see the eagerness the auto industry has with this administration's choice to cave—and cowardly—on fuel efficiency standards. Gas prices may be low now, but they won't be forever. It would be a misguided decision to shelve these fuel-efficiency rules now.

WHAT MY CONSTITUENTS WANT

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I made a promise to my constituents when they sent me back to office this year. They entrusted me to represent them on the issues that affect them the most.

They sent me here to repeal ObamaCare, our health system. Our health insurance system is crushing those that it is supposed to help.

They sent me here to remove Washington bureaucrats from the healthcare business and to restore the doctor-patient relationship that has broken down. If ObamaCare has shown us anything, it is that coverage and affordable care are two very different things.

They sent me here for sweeping tax reform that benefits every American, to create a tax structure that rewards American workers and American businesses.

Lastly, they sent me here to make sure that we secure our borders and enforce our border laws because border security is national security.

Mr. Speaker, these are the issues this House should be tackling.

NOTHING TO HIDE?

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we learned that the Trump administration tried to limit former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates' testimony on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

As reported in The Washington Post, Sally Yates and former CIA Director John Brennan had made clear that their testimony would contradict statements that have been made by officials at the White House.

The hearing at which they were to testify has now been canceled, and all of us have a responsibility to ask why. If there is nothing to hide about his ties to Putin's Russia, then why doesn't President Trump want Sally Yates to testify?

If there is nothing to hide, then why does President Trump continue to withhold his tax returns?

If there is nothing to hide, then why won't President Trump make public the visitor logs at Mar-a-Lago?

We are now in day 68 of the Trump administration. Each day, more and more information emerges about ties between Vladimir Putin's regime and Trump's inner circle, and the Trump campaign officials. Each day, the White House scrambles to contain the damage. It is time for the President to come clean with the American people.

Mr. President, let Sally Yates testify. Mr. President, release your taxes. Mr. President, let's see the guest logs at Mar-a-Lago. And Mr. President, support an independent, bipartisan commission to get to the bottom of this. The American people deserve answers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members to address their remarks to the Chair.

□ 1215

TAX REFORM

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on tax reform. Many of my colleagues know this is a matter that I am the most passionate about.

Mr. Speaker, I am a second-generation small-business owner, and my daughters are third-generation. I understand firsthand the impact that unfair, job-killing taxes and regulations have on Main Street.

I know what it is like to nearly lose a family business that was built from the ground up just because the Federal Government believes in a death tax.

This, my friends, is a tax that strips families of the American Dream they worked so hard to achieve.

The inheritance tax takes money from folks who know how to use it to create jobs and donate to charities and puts it in the hands of those responsible for a \$20 trillion national debt.

Mr. Speaker, I came up here to speak on behalf of the job creators that employ more than half of America's workforce. These are the men and women who suffer directly from politicians' knee-jerk reactions, politicians who have never met a payroll and have never worked in the private sector.

Congress has talked about tax reform for decades, but we haven't seen major reforms in 30 years. Again, I am asking this Congress and this President to act now.

In God we trust.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND THE WOMEN OF DETROIT

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month and to show some R-E-S-P-E-C-T to a real Detroit and Michigan legend, my dear friend and Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin.

Aretha has taught us to be a proud "Natural Woman." She has forced us, not just to "Think" about it, but also to act. Once called the voice of Black America, Ms. Franklin has been a champion in the African-American community for decades and in her hometown of Detroit.

With a Hollywood star, 20 R&B number one hits, 18 Grammys, and a Medal of Freedom from President George Bush, she represents the best of Detroit and of our country.

This month and every month, we must stand up to lift women up across this country, ensuring that our laws and policies empower and protect all women.

I am proud to call Aretha Franklin my friend and to wish her a happy birthday, which was March 25, and to stand alongside this great champion for women everywhere this month, Women's History Month, and every day.

IN MEMORY OF CAPTAIN JOHN JOSEPH KEARNEY, USN

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Captain John Joseph Kearney, who passed away on Pearl Harbor Day last year at the too-young age of 62.

After graduating just 2 years before me at Catholic High School for Boys in Little Rock, John received a Presidential appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Upon gradua-

tion and commission, he followed in his father's footsteps and pursued a lifetime career in the Navy, ultimately retiring at the rank of captain.

Captain Kearney dedicated his life to his distinguished military career and received numerous honors and medals for his service, which included work here in Washington and on the 7th Fleet staff in Japan.

John leaves behind a legacy of warmth and passion, and his example is one all Americans and Arkansans can admire. I extend my respect, affection, and prayers to his fine family and loved ones.

RECOGNIZING THERESA LOPEZ

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Theresa Lopez from Madera, California. Theresa was chosen by my office to be March's Heroine of the Month for the 17th Congressional District.

For nearly 10 years, Theresa has served as a veterans service representative at the Madera Veterans Service Office. Theresa understands that our valley veterans and their families deserve the best care and service that they can have because the men and women who have served our Nation's military, members of your family and members of my family, have made sacrifices that we should never, ever forget.

Theresa knows. She's been working with my office since 2008, and I know that she works hard every day to ensure that local veterans are receiving the VA benefits they have earned.

Theresa also does outreach to the Chowchilla State men's prison and the VA community-based clinic in Oakhurst, and she is a member of the county veterans court. She has also served as secretary of the California Association of County Veterans Service Officers since 2012.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the service of Theresa Lopez and her strong commitment to serving valley veterans, for we can never, ever say thank you enough not only for our veterans, but for the good work that Theresa has done.

God bless her, and God bless the United States of America.

HONORING CAPITOL POLICE SPECIAL AGENT ANGEL MORALES

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible man, Capitol Police Special Agent Angel Morales, who is retiring after 21 years on the force. Angel has dedicated his entire life to serving our country.

From 1986 to 1991, he put on the uniform of our country serving in the U.S.

Army, working his way up to sergeant. From there, Angel traded his Army uniform for a police uniform and served with the D.C. Metro Police.

Starting in 1996, Angel joined the Capitol Police force, where he has protected thousands of visitors, staff, and Members of Congress who come through our Nation's Capitol every single day.

Since 1998, Angel has been assigned to the United States Capitol Police Dignitary Protection Division, working with many House leaders, including Dick Armey, ROY BLUNT, Eric Cantor, and, for the last 3 years, as the leader of my detail team.

I would like to thank Angel's wife, Susan, and his two kids, Tatiana and Mike, for selflessly allowing Angel to serve our Nation in these roles.

Angel, on behalf of my family and the entire Capitol family, thanks for your service. We will miss you, young man.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TIES TO RUSSIA

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding a real investigation into President Trump's ties to Russia and Vladimir Putin.

I was a journalist for nearly two decades, and for part of that time, I was an investigative reporter. I could tell you that, where there is smoke, there is usually fire. Right now, smoke is billowing out of the White House.

No matter how many times President Trump tries to distract us with a tweet, no matter how many times President Trump advisers have held secret meetings with the Russians, no matter how many times the Republican chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence changes his story to protect President Trump, sooner or later, the truth will come out.

Vladimir Putin has a driving mission and that is to weaken America from within.

So to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I ask one simple question: What would President Ronald Reagan do?

Well, I can tell you. He would put our national security ahead of partisan politics. He would follow the facts, and he would leave no stone unturned.

Our democracy demands a complete, thorough, and independent investigation into President Trump's ties with the Putin regime.

RUSSIA'S THREAT TO OUR DEMOCRACY

(Mr. MCEACHIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCEACHIN. Mr. Speaker, before my time in Congress, I was a trial lawyer. As a trial lawyer, I learned that,